

E.) REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Response is filed in response to an Office Action dated June 16, 2004.

Upon entry of this Response, claims 34-58 will be pending in the Application.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 10-18 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-9 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,656,533. The Examiner also rejected claims 19 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting.

Applicants' attorney thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview on December 8, 2004 and extends his appreciation for Examiner's assistance in providing guidance on how to respond to the Office Action of June 16, 2004. During that telephone interview, Applicants' attorney noted that a preliminary amendment, which cancelled claims 1-32 and added new claim 33 had apparently been inadvertently not appropriately entered in the application. The Examiner concurred with applicants' attorney's assertion and instructed applicants' attorney to simply respond to the Office Action as though claims 1-32 had been cancelled and new claim 33 had been added as provided for in the preliminary amendment submitted November 18, 2003. Examiner also instructed applicants' attorney to begin numbering new claims beginning with claim 34. Applicants have responded accordingly in this Amendment and have complied with Examiner's recommendations.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Examiner rejected claims 10-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-9 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,656,533. This is a

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double patenting rejection. Applicants submit that this rejection is moot as claims 10-18 are no longer pending in this application.

Obviousness-type Double Patenting

The Examiner rejected claim 19 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,656,533. Applicants submit that this rejection is moot as claim 19 is no longer pending in this application.

Amendments to the Claims

Applicants have cancelled prior pending claim 33 and added new claims 34-58. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added as a result of the amendments to the claims.

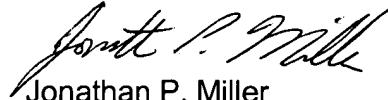
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and withdrawal of the outstanding double patenting rejections. As a result of the amendments and remarks presented herein, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 34-58 are in condition for allowance. Applicants request allowance of claims 34-58 in a timely manner. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by the amendments to the claims. If the Examiner believes that prosecution of this Application could be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicant.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1059.

Respectfully submitted,
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D.) AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

None.